

expenditures, just two months of a year's worth of expenditures. If you doubled what they're paying, they'd be paying for four months; if you tripled it, they'd only be paying for half of it. This is an incredibly generous bill, incredibly generous with the taxpayers' gas money. And to suggest that this should continue beyond the crisis period that has been generated by the demands of the federal government, the short-term demands of the federal government, to suggest that this system should go on beyond that is making a very major public policy question. You should consider that question in light of the nitrate problems, in light of a half a dozen other type of problems, environmentally, that exist, and you should ask yourself, are we going to treat everybody consistently; are we prepared to subsidize the cleanup of all environmental problems, all the way down the line forever, in this manner, by general payments from the taxpayer, without any accountability, without any accountability on the part of the owners of land, or of gas stations, or whatever it is that's causing the pollution? That's not a good system. That's not a good system. That's a system that will get us in trouble, and we will spend a lot of money unnecessarily, if we go down that road. And that's why I'm spending so much time with what may appear to be to some a minor matter. It's not a minor matter. We're talking major policy kinds of trends here. I think we need to think about it very seriously. This amendment that I have put on that they're now seeking to take off is very modest. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I...reluctantly, I don't completely agree with Senator Beutler, but I do agree that I think the tank owners need to pay a little more. I do think that they're getting a heck of an insurance policy for a very small amount. But then the amount they're paying in isn't their total costs, because they are also having to upgrade their systems. And my brother recently upgraded his system, and he's what I consider a small volume dealer, which would be in the range a little different than Senator Lamb's figures, but 200 to 500 thousand gallons a year, gas and diesel. But he has had to spend \$25,000, in the last couple of years, to upgrade his two tanks, dig up the two tanks, 6,000 gallons each, buy new tanks, have them installed, get monitoring systems, overfill protection, contamination protection, protection from